



SCOTT M. MATHESON
Governor

GORDON E. HARMSTON
Executive Director,
NATURAL RESOURCES

CLEON B. FEIGHT
Director

STATE OF UTAH
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS, AND MINING
1588 West North Temple
Salt Lake City, Utah 84116
(801) 533-5771

OIL, GAS, AND MINING BOARD

I. DANIEL STEWART
Chairman

CHARLES R. HENDERSON
JOHN L. BELL
THADIS W. BOX
C. RAY JUVELIN

July 10, 1978

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: All ECC Members
FROM: Brian Buck
RE: EIA for a mining plan

Included please find a copy of an environmental impact assessment prepared by me for a new mining operation on State land. I would greatly appreciate your review of this document prior to the next (July 18, 1978) ECC meeting. As the document is quite short. I hope that you can have your comments ready at that meeting. Thank you for your cooperation.

B.W.B.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

FOR
INTERSTATE BRICK COMPANY

LONG CANYON MINE

ACT/049/007

STATE MINERAL LEASE #34181

Section 16, T. 7S., R. 1 W.
Utah County
Utah

July 10, 1978

PREPARED BY:

UTAH DIVISION OF OIL, GAS, AND MINING

BRIAN W. BUCK, ENGINEERING GEOLOGIST

PRESENT SITUATION

I. PROPOSED ACTION

The Division of Oil, Gas, and Mining is seeking comments relative to the approval of Interstate Brick's Mining and Reclamation plan for a new open cut clay mine on State land. The operator has complied with all portions of the Division's regulations and tentative approval has been granted. The Division now seeks clearinghouse comments prior to granting final approval.

II. DESCRIPTION OF OPERATION

Interstate Brick has located a clay deposit which is amenable to brick production. The clay deposit outcrop is in an ephemeral drainage and the seam is inclined to the east. Overburden would be lifted and placed in a spoil dump upstream from the pit so as to dam the drainage and prevent flooding of the pit. This dump should be constructed in a controlled manner to assure its mechanical stability as a permanent impounding structure. A diversion ditch will direct overflow from the impoundment, a distance of about 200 feet to the north into another ephemeral drainage.

The pit will be developed along the clay outcrop for a length of about 1200 feet and will be an assymetric trench with an open west and north side and a cut wall on the east and south sides. The cut walls will be in existing hill slopes. The entire pit is located in a small depression between hills on all sides (see Figure 1) and the total disturbed acreage is about 15 acres.

Access to the mine is via an existing graded dirt road and about 1,000 feet of new road will be required. The mine is hidden from view of the road by the surrounding hills.

Reclamation of the mine will consist of picking up all equipment and debris, regrading the disturbed area, spreading stock piled soil and reseeding. The cut walls will be graded down to the extent possible. The short mine access road would be stabilized and blocked to prevent continued use. Revegetation would be maintained

to assure success.

III. LOCATION

The site is in a relatively remote area in Utah County. It is on the west side of the Lake Mountains about 3/4 mile north of Soldiers Pass (figure 2).

IV. EXISTING ENVIRONMENT

The present undisturbed environment consists of a small arid drainage valley covered with a sage-pinyon-juniper plant community. The elevation is 5280 feet and the normal annual precipitation is 12 inches. Soil is poorly developed on most sloping surfaces but is present in the drainages.

POTENTIAL IMPACTS

I. VEGETATION AND SOIL

About 15 acres of ground will be disturbed for the duration of mining. The operation will be seasonal and perhaps the site will be inactive for a number of years in between mining. During the life of the mine all alternate uses of the land will be precluded.

II. DRAINAGE

The natural drainage through the mine site will be altered permanently and an impoundment will exist across the drainage.

III. WILDLIFE AND LIVESTOCK

For the duration of mining the natural grazing and browsing vegetative cover will be lacking from about 15 acres.

IV. RECREATION

The small area of the mine has no present vehicular access and no outstanding recreational qualities. During operations, the site will be open to the public and will probably be used as a shooting range during inactive mining periods.

MITIGATIVE MEASURES

I. VEGETATION AND SOIL

After operations cease, the area will be cleaned up, regraded and reseeded. Stock piled soil will be respread prior to seeding.

II. DRAINAGE

The drainage through the mine site will be permanently blocked. The resulting impoundment will seasonally trap water for wildlife use.

III. WILDLIFE AND LIVESTOCK

Reclamation of the site will re-establish the grazing productivity of the site.

IV. RECREATION

Once the site is reclaimed, the access road will be blocked which will re-establish the pre-mining recreational used.

ALTERNATIVES

I. NO ACTION

Not approving this mining plan must be an overt action by the clearinghouse. This action would be considered by the Divisions of State Lands and Oil, Gas, and Mining.

II. UNCONDITIONAL APPROVAL

Unconditional approval by the clearinghouse would not release the operator from legal conditions of the mineral lease and the reclamation plan.

III. CONDITIONAL APPROVAL

The clearinghouse can recommend additional conditions to Oil, Gas, and Mining and State Lands for consideration prior to their final approvals.

IV. COMMITMENTS OF RESOURCES

Long term (up to 50 years) use of this site for clay mining is essentially equal to permanent destruction of this area for all

other uses. Reclamation will restore the site only at the end of operations. The use of the clay now will preclude its use in the future but this mine will develop only a portion of the huge clay reserves of this general area.

The Division of Oil, Gas, and Mining encourages comments on this operation. Copies of the file are available to interested parties.



